

Devotional and Selections

SAVIOUR, COME, AND BRING SALVATION.

Saviour, come, and bring salvation;
 Chase away the lingering night;
 Pour thy beams on every nation,
 Bless the world with heavenly light.
 Let thy glory
 Fill the earth from pole to pole,
 Till the story
 Wakens love in every soul.
 Saviour, bring the glad tomorrow;
 Bring the fullness of the day
 When shall cease the tears of sorrow,
 In the mildness of thy sway;
 When the nations
 Learn the arts of war no more,
 And hosannas
 Wing in peace from shore to shore.
 Break the gloom where souls are dying,
 Lost in darkness, sin and strife;
 Speak the word to mourners sighing,
 Thou the Way, the Truth, the Life;
 Hallelujahs
 Wide o'er the earth be sung,
 And redemption
 Kindle praise on every tongue.

—Christian World.

WHY MEN DON'T GO TO CHURCH?

A symposium in Leslie's Weekly is occupied with this question, from which we make the following selections. The editor replies as follows: "The only part of the United States where people go to church as they used to is the South, where social customs and habits of thought have undergone least change. What is back of the small congregations in so many churches? The bill of particulars would include the distractions of present-day life. At one time the church service was the chief intellectual and social feature of the week; but there is more going on now, both in urban and rural life. Some lay much blame upon the higher criticism and its unsettling of men's faith. In the period of readjustment through which we are passing, many a pulpit has been slow in finding itself, and therefore has failed to speak with the power of strong convictions; and many a laymen has seen the old landmark slip away, with the new not yet taking its place. A time of reconstruction is always hard on any institution, but is inevitable if we are to build on deeper foundations.

Some probably hold the poorer preaching of today responsible for the empty pews. But it should be remembered that better preaching is demanded now than formerly. There is not so great difference as once there was between the intellectual attainments of pulpit and pew, and the preacher is no longer the oracle he once was of the community. There are, too, a vast number of social and humanitarian agencies outside the church, and with very many these interests supplant the claim of the church. Even the Sunday school, called the "right arm" of the church, has in a way worked against church attendance. In the minds of many parents, Sunday school takes the place of church for their children. So we do not find the children in the pews with their parents Sunday morning,

as was once the custom. And when the child gets to the age when he drops Sunday school, not having previously gone to church, he has no church-going habit. This, in connection with weak and superficial home training, is not conducive to church support.

"Yet these, after all, are in a way but superficial excuses. At the root of it all is a declining sense of God and of personal accountability to Him. The claim of God upon every life and the duty to honor him in the worship of the church must be pressed home upon men's consciences. The pulpit must cease trying to excuse men for failure. Let them face the trying situation as a business man would do, and let them fearlessly call upon the people to respond to the claim of God. But this is a question that can not be answered academically, and we should like to interest the readers of Leslie's. Read the symposium by the prominent religious editors in this issue on this subject and then write the editor today, giving your explanation of the trouble."

Mr. Charles Gallaudet Trumbull, of the **Sunday School Times** replies:

More Men in the Church Than Ever Before.

"The question, 'Why don't men go to church?' reminds one of the old question in logic, 'Why did you kill your grandmother?' You didn't kill your grandmother, and men do go to church. Leslie's editors, in asking for views on this question, note that the census bureau records 43.1 per cent. of the total church membership of nearly 33,000,000 in 1906 as being males. We don't ordinarily count a sex as left out if almost half of those present are of that sex. A handful of fourteen million boys and men would, in other affairs, seem to be something of a showing.

"Of course not every man goes to church. The church's work for the world is not yet finished. But the church is a great deal nearer its goal when the secular magazines are all asking the false-premise question, 'Why don't men go to church?' and devoting pages and pages to pointing out the 'spiritual unrest' and the 'blasting at the Rock of Ages' and the failure generally of Christianity and the Church, than when the world paid no attention to these subjects. A dead issue arouses no attention. Corpses are seldom criticised. But when a man or an institution is one of the liveliest things on the horizon, there is never lacking a widespread effort to point out that one's failure to be what he (or it) should be.

"As a matter of fact, there has probably never before been a time in the history of the world when so many men, both absolutely and relatively to populations, went to church as today in Christian America. The really leading business men in any community are Christian, church-going citizens. A little book was published not long ago, for example, giving some facts as to Presbyterianism in Chicago, and incidentally it gave a list of Chicago's financial, commercial and professional leaders, many of national reputation, who were active in Christian work. The list represented only a single denomination in a single city—and that city not ordinarily noted as a shining Christian example in city life. The list could be duplicated many times over in other cities and other denominations. Yet that one list of church-going captains of industry